

Onlooker's Diary

Wanderers' puzzle

THE FINAL composition of Wycombe Wanderers' team to open their Isthmian League programme at home against Barking tomorrow is a matter largely for conjecture.

This statement may worry some Wanderers supporters but the reason for the delay about announcing the team is due to the influx of new players, coupled with the fact that Wycombe were involved in a Westminster Cup clash against Slough at the Dolphin on Wednesday evening.

Certainly this is a refreshing change. On many occasions last season the side tended to pick itself although the desirable results wanted were not being achieved.

There is a quiet air of optimism around Loakes Park that Wycombe will improve on last season's disastrous Isthmian League position. The officials of the club worked extremely hard during the brief close season contacting numerous players about the possibility of joining the Wanderers.

Within contact

On the evidence of three pre-season friendlies Wycombe appear to have a possible chance of moving up within contact of the leading Isthmian clubs.

It is far too early to say whether they will materialise as serious championship challengers. Certainly the monopoly of Enfield, Hendon, Sutton and Leytonstone will take some breaking.

Therefore, it is crucial Wanderers establish a good home record. Wins against Barking tomorrow and Hitchin on Tuesday (also at Loakes Park) would provide a fine fillip to start with.

The arrival of new players has served one very important role. Some of the "old guard" realise that their places are no longer guaranteed and will have to fight off strong challenges from the new men.

The players have responded magnificently by promising to increase their attendances at training sessions during the season. In the three matches before the Slough fixture Wycombe's goal average stood at 13 for six against.

whether any of the new players will reach Isthmian standard and grab the chance of establishing themselves in the senior side.

One fact is clear. The prospects for the next nine months are a great deal brighter than they were at the corresponding stage last year.

Following a suggestion at the club's recent annual meeting the programme presentation has been re-designed to include a picture of Loakes Park on the cover. During the season pen pictures of players will appear with other items of interest.

The majority of last season's players have re-signed although Peter Eyres has decided on a change of clubs and has switched to Chesham United the defeated amateur cup finalists. Also gone to Chesham is reserve trainer Doug Cabbage and the Wanderers now require a replacement.

Secretary Bill Hayter hopes the applicant will have some medical knowledge as the job is also coupled with dressing-room attendant. Anyone interested in the post should contact Mr. Hayter.

We must wait

It now remains to be seen

